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## Sorry, not sorry: Some 1/6 rioters change tune after apology

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Appearing before a federal judge after pleading guilty to a felony charge in the deadly Capitol riot, former West Virginia lawmaker Derrick Evans expressed remorse for letting down his family and his community, saying he made a “crucial mistake.”

Less than a year later, Evans is portraying himself as a victim of a politically motivated prosecution as he runs to serve in the same building he stormed on Jan. 6, 2021. Evans is now calling the Justice Department’s Jan. 6 prosecutions a “miscarriage of justice” and describes himself on twitter as a “J6 Patriot.”

“Some ppl have said I need to apologize and condemn #J6 if I want to win my election as the media will attack me,” he tweeted recently after announcing his bid for a U.S. House seat in 2024. “I will not compromise my values or beliefs. That’s what politicians do. We need Patriots not politicians.”

Evans joins a series of Jan. 6 defendants who — when up against possible prison time in court — have expressed regret for joining the pro-Trump mob that rattled the foundations of American democracy only to strike a different tone or downplay the riot after receiving their punishment.

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Pauline Bauer leans against a wooden statue outside Bob’s Trading Post, her restaurant in Hamilton, Pa., July 21, 2021.

Associated Press

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# Sorry, not sorry: Some 1/6 rioters change tune after apology

Continued from Front

The very first Jan. 6 defendant to be sentenced apologized in court and then went on Fox News Channel shortly after and seemed to minimize the riot. Another defendant who called Jan. 6 “horrifying and disgusting” later donned an orange jumpsuit to play the part of a distraught prisoner in a bizarre tribute to imprisoned Capitol rioters during a conservative conference.

Some defendants have drawn ire from judges or the Justice Department for their inconsistent comments. But there’s not much the legal system can do for an adjudicated defendant. And because some conservatives hold up Jan. 6 defendants as martyrs, there’s a political and possibly financial incentive for them to change their tune. It could push judges to impose stronger punishments for rioters who haven’t yet made it to the end of their criminal cases. Even before Evans’ sentencing, the judge who heard his case began questioning the sincerity of rioters’ apologies after he felt duped by another defendant, saying he was “all too familiar with crocodile tears.”

In some cases, judges have questioned whether they should undo defendants’ convictions or plea deals after they made statements in public that appeared to go against what they said in court. On Friday, U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta ordered an Illinois man convicted this week to explain why the judge shouldn’t vacate his conviction after he agreed in court that he participated in the riot and then told a newspaper he didn’t actually think he committed the crimes with which he was charged.

Before being sentenced last June to three months behind bars for a civil disorder charge, Evans said he regrets his actions every day and told Senior Judge Royce Lamberth he is a “good person who unfortunately was caught up in a moment.”



In this image provided by the West Virginia Legislative Photography, Derrick Evans is shown during his swearing-in ceremony to the West Virginia House of Delegates on Dec. 1, 2020, in Charleston, W.Va.

Shortly after, prosecutors wrote to the judge about several statements Evans made on a radio show and that were “inconsistent with the contrition” he showed at sentencing. When asked whether he regretted his actions, Evans said on the show that he regretted the “situation” he was in. But he said he was “never going to have regrets when it comes to standing up and doing what’s right.”

Evans said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press that he still stands behind what he said in court.

“That was my message to the judge. This is my message to the media. It’s time to tell the real story of what happened personally to me that day,” he said.

Evans said he lost “almost everything” — including his job as a state delegate and time with his kids — because of his decision on Jan. 6. “How could I not regret that?” he asked. But he said he is “done being portrayed as a villain” when he is not, noting that he didn’t overrun any officers and was inside the Capitol for only 10 minutes. When determining an appropriate sentence, judges generally take into account whether defendants

have taken responsibility for their actions and appear genuinely sorry. In some Jan. 6 cases, judges have faulted defendants for not appearing to show true remorse even before their punishment has been handed down.

A lawyer for Trennis Evans III, who took a swig of whiskey in a congressional conference room during the riot, told the judge in court papers that Evans was “sincerely remorseful, and duly contrite.” But after Evans suggested at his November sentencing that Jan. 6 defendants were being treated unfairly — even though he said he condemned what happened that day — the judge said she didn’t believe he showed “full and genuine remorse.”

Months after he was ordered to serve 20 days in jail, the Texas man traveled to South Dakota to urge state lawmakers to support a resolution encouraging “the humane and fair treatment” of Jan. 6 defendants. The resolution failed by unanimous vote.

The first Jan. 6 defendant to get her punishment, Anna Morgan-Lloyd, told Lamberth that she was ashamed of the “savage display of violence” at the Capitol before he sen-

tenced her to probation. Shortly after, however, the Indiana woman told Fox News host Laura Ingraham that people were “very polite” during the riot and that she saw “relaxed” police officers chatting with rioters.

Lamberth apparently hasn’t forgotten about it. The judge wrote in court papers that he hoped another defendant’s “change of heart” was sincere because his hopes were “dashed” in her case. In another case, he wrote that he “often finds it difficult to ascertain the sincerity” of Jan. 6 defendants’ remorse.

“Many defendants appear sincere at sentencing, boasting of their purportedly deep shame, regret, and desire to change and be law-abiding citizens,” Lamberth wrote. “But this Court is all too familiar with crocodile tears.”

Morgan-Lloyd’s attorney has said that she believes her client was genuinely remorseful, was “played” by Ingraham and sent the judge a letter after her TV interview. When contacted by The Associated Press, Morgan-Lloyd’s attorney said the woman would not comment.

After he dodged prison

time in his Jan. 6 case, right-wing activist Brandon Straka donned an orange jumpsuit and red MAGA cap, sat in a fake jail cell and performatively wept for a procession of attendees at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Dallas last August. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Georgia Republican, entered the cage and embraced Straka before they appeared to pray together.

Months earlier, with a possible jail term hanging over his head, Straka referred to Jan. 6 as “nothing more than an incredibly shameful day that had absolutely no positive attributes whatsoever.”

“I’m sorry that I was present in any way at an event that led people to feel afraid, that caused shame and embarrassment on our country, and that served absolutely no purpose other than to further tear away at the already heartbreaking divide in this country,” he wrote in a letter to U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich, who sentenced him to 36 months of probation. An email seeking comment was sent to Straka, from Nebraska. He has said that the CPAC performance was meant “to provoke a reaction about political division, human rights abuses & more” and accused critics of trying to “criminalize art.” Since his sentencing, the judge questioned whether he wanted to withdraw his guilty plea and said he could be opening himself up to prosecution for making false statements because of public comments she said seemed to contradict things he said in court. A written statement of offense that Straka agreed was correct under his plea deal says that he yelled “Take it! Take it!” while filming others trying to take a police officer’s shield. Straka later told Fox News host Tucker Carlson that he told his lawyer that he never made that comment. He suggested he admitted doing so because he was under pressure to take a deal. □

# Chinese balloon high over U.S. stirs unease far below

By MATTHEW BROWN and  
AMY BETH HANSON

Associated Press

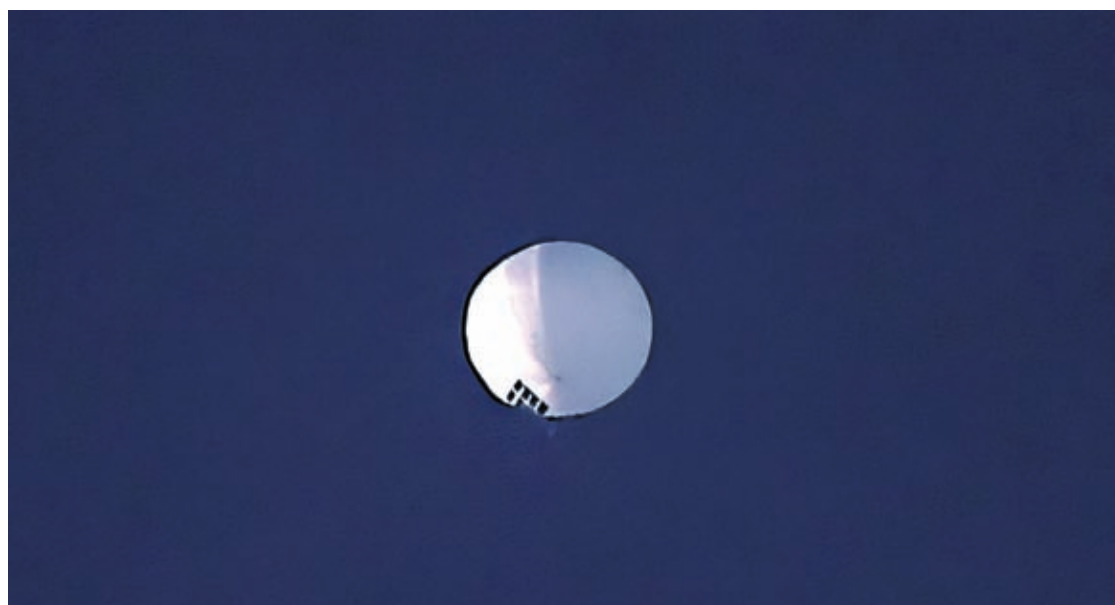
BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) —

The Chinese balloon drifting high above the U.S. and first revealed over Montana has created a buzz down below among residents who initially wondered what it was — and now wonder what its arrival means amid a chorus of alarm raised by the region's elected officials.

The balloon roiled diplomatic tensions as it continued to move over the central U.S. on Friday at 60,000 feet (18,288 meters). Secretary of State Anthony Blinken abruptly canceled an upcoming trip to China. Curiosity about the bobbling sky orb swept the internet, with search terms like “where is the sky balloon now?” and “spy balloon tracker” surging on Google.

On Facebook, wobbly videos of blue skies and the white splotch filled speculative feeds as communities tried to track its path over the U.S.

In Montana, home to Malmstrom Air Force base and dozens of nuclear mis-



A high altitude balloon floats over Billings, Mont., on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.

Associated Press

sile silos, people doubted Beijing's claim that it was a weather balloon gone off course.

“I question whether or not we would even find out about this if people hadn't spotted it in Billings,” said Chase Doak, a resident of the southern Montana city who appears to have captured some of the first known video footage and photographs of the balloon.

“It needs to be removed from the sky somehow,” Doak added. “And if China

is now taking responsibility, they need to answer for why it's here in our airspace.”

A white balloon with what appeared to be a solar array hanging beneath it was seen over Billings Wednesday afternoon, around the same time the local airport was temporarily shut down and a day before the Pentagon revealed it was tracking a Chinese spy balloon over the state.

Initial speculation over its origins ranged from the foreign to the extra-terrestrial.

Todd Hewett of Billings said his 10-year-old son Matt saw the balloon and thought it was a comet he had been looking for.

Hewett got some shaky footage, using a cellphone to take video through a telescope, and came away skeptical of the Chinese claim that it was a civilian weather balloon. He wanted the federal government to take action.

“Shoot it down,” he said. “If we could somehow pierce the bottom of it to allow some of the gas to

escape to allow for a more controlled descent (that) would be nice ... but if we can't do that ... blow it up.”

The National Weather Service in Kansas City, Missouri, said it received reports of a large balloon in the Kansas City metro area and posted two images of white orbs taken from the weather station office in Pleasant Hill, Missouri. The service confirmed it was not a National Weather Service balloon.

The Live Storm Chasers Facebook page included several posts from people who reported seeing a white orb that could be the balloon over Missouri at midday Friday.

Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke put out a poll to his constituents early Friday saying the balloon was still over the state and asking if it should be shot down. When the Pentagon said the balloon had since drifted over the central U.S., Zinke remained unappeased and raised the possibility that China had more than one balloon over the U.S., during an interview with The Associated Press. □

# U.S. reunites nearly 700 kids taken from parents under Trump

By REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

A Biden administration task force designed to reunite children separated from their families during President Trump's presidency has reconnected nearly 700 children with their families, officials said Thursday. President Joe Biden issued an executive order on his first day in office to reunite families that were split up under the Trump administration's widely condemned practice of forcibly separating parents and children at the U.S.-Mexico border to discourage illegal immigration. Thursday marked the two-year anniversary of the task force. According to figures released by the Department of Homeland Security, 3,881

children were separated from their families from 2017 to 2021. About 74% of those have been reunited with their families; 2,176 before the task force was created and 689 afterward.

But that still leaves nearly 1,000 children. Of those, 148 are in the reunification process. The department pledged to continue the work until all separated families that can be found have the opportunity to reunite with their children.

The Trump administration separated thousands of migrant parents from their children as it moved to criminally prosecute people for illegally crossing the southwestern border. Minors, who could not be held in criminal custody with their parents, were transferred to the Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services. They were then typically sent to live with a sponsor, often a relative or someone else with a connection to the family.

Hundreds of families have sued the federal government.

Families can register for reunification services through a website and can get help with steps such as applying for humanitarian parole that would allow them to come to the U.S., as well as for behavioral health services to help them.

During a meeting Thursday with reporters, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas discussed efforts to address “the wounds” the separations had caused.

He described meeting the mother of a teenager who

had been separated from her mom when she was 13 and then reunited with her when she was 16. But Mayorkas said, the woman relayed how her teen-

age daughter “still could not understand how her mother would let her be separated. She didn't understand the force behind the separation.” □



Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas speaks during a news conference in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, on new border enforcement measures to limit unlawful migration, expand pathways for legal immigration, and increase border security.

Associated Press



# Companies pledge millions in fed effort to stem road deaths

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Nearly 50 businesses and non-profits including rideshare companies Uber and Lyft, industrial giant 3M and automaker Honda are pledging millions of dollars in initiatives to stem a crisis in road fatalities under a new federal effort announced Friday.

It's part of the Department of Transportation's "Call to Action" campaign, which urges commitments from the private sector, trade groups and health and safety organizations to reduce serious traffic injuries and deaths.

Traffic fatalities are near historic highs after a surge of dangerous driving during the coronavirus pandemic. The public-private effort, unveiled Friday as part of the department's multiyear strategy started last year to make roads safer, ranges from investments to improve school crosswalks to enhanced seat belt alerts in Uber vehicles and a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to promote proven injury prevention strategies, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg



Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg speaks before the arrival of President Joe Biden at the construction site of the Hudson Tunnel Project, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

told The Associated Press. It comes on the heels of the award of 510 transportation grants this week totaling more than \$800 million under the bipartisan infrastructure law to states and localities that, for the first time, focus on road safety such as by adding bike lanes, lighting, protected left turns and sidewalks. After a record spike in 2021, the number of U.S. traffic deaths dipped slightly during the first nine months of 2022, but pedestrian and

cyclist deaths continued to rise. More than 40,000 people are killed in road crashes a year. "It's still a crisis," Buttigieg said, stressing a need for a national change in mindset. "We're looking at road deaths coming in year after year in a similar proportion to gun deaths. The problem is they're so widespread and so common that I fear as a country we've gotten used to it and perhaps fallen into the mistaken sense they're inevitable."

"We can't solve any of this on our own," he added. "We also know there isn't one piece that will get this all down. But if we add all this together it can be enormous." Road travelers will see an array of safety measures this year. Uber told the AP that it is donating \$500,000 its single biggest investment in its effort to reduce drunken driving for free and discounted rides in Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri and Texas as part of the

"Decide to Ride" program run in tandem with MADD and Anheuser-Busch.

The world's largest ride-share company also said it was doubling the availability of its bike lane alerts this month from 71 cities to 144 for passengers exiting vehicles near cycling routes and providing a safety checklist for Uber Eats bicycle couriers. It also pledged to strengthen its seat belt alerts, such as by increasing their frequency or adding an audio message along with pop-up messages urging riders to "buckle up."

"We were thinking about how we could make an impact more broadly how we can get people to start making better choices," said Kristin Smith, head of Uber's road safety policy. "We know it's going to take a broad coalition of people to be tackling the crisis on U.S. roadways right now." Uber's investment comes along with separate commitments from Lyft, the second-largest rideshare company, which has partnered with the Governors Highway Safety Association in recent years to award tens of thousands of dollars in state grants to help reduce impaired driving and curtail speeding. □

## Report: Navy ships face growing maintenance delays, costs

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Navy ships are getting fewer steaming hours because of growing maintenance

delays and costs, a troubling trend that comes as at time when the U.S. is struggling to keep pace

with China's growing fleet. Operating and support costs grew by about \$2.5 billion across 10 ship classes while the number of propulsion hours in which ships were operating or training dipped during a 10-year period that ended in 2021, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office. The Navy saw increased maintenance delays, breakdowns and cannibalization of parts moving them from one ship to keep another one going during the period. The analysis shows "persistent sustainment challenges that have worsened," compounded by maintenance delays and deferred

maintenance noted in previous reports by the GAO, a congressional agency that audits federal programs. "Over time this situation has resulted in worsening ship conditions and increased costs to repair and sustain ships," the GAO said. A spokesperson for Naval Surface Forces said the Navy appreciates the GAO's recommendations for improving maintenance delivery times. The goal is 75 mission capable ships this figure doesn't include aircraft carriers, sealift ships or submarines among the 164 ships assigned to the Surface Force, said Cmdr. Arlo Abrahamson. "This imperative for 75 mission capable

ships drives every program and action we take, and across our force, the enterprise is aligned to reach this north star," Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, commander of Naval Surface Forces, said this month at a Surface Navy Association event. The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship and littoral combat ships experienced the greatest number of severe "casualty reports" that impair a ship's ability to operate effectively, the GAO report said. San Antonio-class amphibious transport docks and Arleigh Burke-class destroyers experienced the biggest maintenance delays, the report said. □



In this photo provided by the U.S. Navy, sailors aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Stout handle mooring lines during the ship's return to home port at Naval Station Norfolk, in Norfolk, Va., in this Oct. 12, 2020, photo.

Associated Press



# EU prepares more Russia sanctions; Kremlin readies offensive

By SUSIE BLANN

Associated Press

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)** — The European Union will unveil its 10th package of sanctions against Russia on Feb. 24 to mark the anniversary of Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, a senior official from the bloc said in Kyiv on Friday, as Ukrainian forces gird for an expected Russian offensive in the coming weeks.

The sanctions will target technology used by Russia's war machine, among other things, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told a news conference.

The sanctions will take aim in particular at components used in the manufacturing of drones, she said, naming Iran as a key supplier of Russia.

Closing loopholes that the Kremlin uses to circumvent sanctions will also be a priority, according to Von der Leyen, who was on her fourth visit to the Ukrainian capital since the war began.

The exact measures in the next EU sanctions package must be agreed upon by the bloc's 27 member countries a process that



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, center, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, right, and European Council President Charles Michel address a media conference after the EU-Ukraine summit in Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday, Feb. 3, 2023.

can take weeks.

Top EU officials met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a show of support for the country as it battles to counter the Kremlin's forces and strives to join the EU as well as NATO.

The last such summit was held in Kyiv in October 2021 a few months before the war started. The highly sym-

bolic visit is also the first EU political mission of its kind to a country at war.

The high-level meeting came as a 60-year-old man was killed and six others were wounded Friday after Russian missiles hit central Toretsk, a town in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, the local prosecutor's office said in a statement on Facebook.

Ukrainian authorities reported Friday that at least six civilians were killed and 20 others were wounded over the previous 24 hours.

Among the dead were two brothers, ages 49 and 42, killed when Russian shelling destroyed an apartment building in the northeastern Kharkiv region, Ukraine's presidential office said. Their 70-year-old father was

hospitalized with unspecified injuries.

Also, six people were wounded and 18 apartment buildings, two hospitals and a school were damaged in a Russian attack in the eastern city of Kramatorsk on Thursday, Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko told Ukrainian TV. Three people died when a Russian missile hit an apartment building in that city on Wednesday.

European officials were adamant about continuing to support Ukraine militarily and economically, but they didn't provide any new details about Ukraine's accession path to the EU.

Zelenskyy said that Ukraine's goal "is to start negotiations this year."

But the process will likely take years and require the adoption of far-reaching reforms, including a clamp-down on endemic corruption as the country receives billions of dollars in aid. Kyiv formally submitted its application last June.

Zelenskyy said that progress had been made to further economically integrate the Ukraine into the EU across several sectors, including agriculture, industry, energy and customs. □

Associated Press

## NATO urges Russia to respect nuclear pact with the U.S.

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — NATO called Friday on Russia to respect the only treaty it has with the United States aimed at keeping a lid on nuclear weapons expansion and urged Moscow to allow on-the-ground inspections of military sites to resume.

The so-called New START Treaty was signed by Russia and the U.S. in 2010. It caps at 1,550 the number of long-range nuclear warheads they can deploy and limits the use of missiles that can carry atomic weapons. It allows short-notice inspections of each other's nuclear bases and support facilities.

"We note with concern that Russia has failed to comply with legally-binding obligations under the New START

Treaty," NATO ambassadors said in a statement. The 30-nation U.S.-led military alliance supports the treaty and believes that it helps to limit the expansion of nuclear forces.

The envoys said that Russia's refusal to hold consultations or to allow U.S. inspections since last August "prevents the United States from exercising important rights under the Treaty, and undermines the United States' ability to adequately verify Russian compliance with the Treaty's central limits."

"We call on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty by facilitating New START inspections on Russian territory, and by returning to participation in the Treaty's implementation body,"

the forum in which the two sides could consult, NATO said.

President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly ramped up his nuclear rhetoric since he ordered Russian troops into Ukraine almost a year ago, raising concern among Western allies and the public over whether he might actually use such weapons. The U.S.-Russia committee formed under the treaty last met in October 2021, but Russia unilaterally suspended its cooperation with the pact's inspection provisions in August 2022 to protest U.S. support for Ukraine.

Inspections of U.S. and Russian military sites under the New START treaty were paused by both sides because of the spread of the

coronavirus in March 2020. The U.S. State Department warned Tuesday that "Russia's refusal to facilitate inspection activities prevents the United States

from exercising important rights under the treaty and threatens the viability of U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control." □



President Barack Obama, left, and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev sign the New START treaty at the Prague Castle in Prague on April 8, 2010.

Associated Press



# Ally claims Bolsonaro plotted coup to block Lula presidency

By **ELÉONORE HUGHES and MAURICIO SAVARESE**

Associated Press

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** —

A Brazilian magazine on Thursday released audio of a senator claiming then President Jair Bolsonaro sought help in a plot to annul the October elections and keep himself in power. In the recording, Sen. Marcos do Val tells the magazine *Veja* that the idea was discussed when he met with Bolsonaro and lawmaker Daniel Silveira on Dec. 9 at the presidential residence, three weeks before leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was set to take office.

Do Val, who was an ally during Bolsonaro's four-year term, said the far-right leader gave him the "mission" of recording Alexandre de Moraes, a Supreme Court justice who also heads Brazil's electoral authority, while trying to get the judge to admit he overstepped his powers under the constitution.

"I annul the election, Lula isn't sworn in, I stay in the presidency and arrest Alexandre de Moraes because



Protesters, supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro, stand on the roof of the National Congress building after they stormed it, in Brasília, Brazil, Jan. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

of his comments," do Val quotes Bolsonaro as saying. *Veja* released the audio in response to denials the senator issued following the magazine's report Thursday morning about the purported plot, which had not cited him as its source. Do Val told reporters after the magazine published

its story that the plot had been Silveira's idea and that the former president hadn't said a word during the meeting.

Later Thursday, de Moraes ordered the Federal Police to take do Val's sworn testimony within five days. Bolsonaro, who has been keeping a low profile in Flor-

ida since Dec. 30, did not comment on the matter on any of his social media channels. He recently applied for a six-month tourist visa to stay in the U.S.

Contacted by The Associated Press, Bolsonaro's lawyer Frederick Wassef declined to comment.

The alleged meeting adds

to the growing list of woes for Bolsonaro, who is already under investigation for his possible role in his supporters' uprising in the Brazilian capital on Jan. 8. Bolsonaro cast doubt on the nation's electronic voting system for months in the lead-up to the election, and he then refused to concede defeat. His die-hard supporters have accused de Moraes of rigging the election in Lula's favor, without offering any evidence, and of overstepping his authority by blocking social media accounts and ordering allegedly arbitrary arrests and searches.

Suspicion of a coup plot increased after police searched the home of Bolsonaro's former justice minister found a draft decree that would have seized control of the electoral authority and potentially overturned the election. The origin of the unsigned document is unclear, and it remains unknown if Bolsonaro or his subordinates took any steps to implement the measure. □

## UN rights chief concerned about Israel's moves amid violence

By **JAMEY KEATEN**

Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — The U.N. human rights chief expressed concerns Friday that steps taken by the new Israeli government, the most far-right in the country's history, could fuel further violations of human rights and humanitarian law in the wake

of a recent spike in bloodshed in the region.

Volker Türk cited steps such as forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes and government moves to expedite Israelis' access to firearms. He called on leaders, officials and everyone else on both sides to stop using language that incites

hatred, and to shun violence. "Rather than doubling down on failed approaches of violence and coercion that have singularly failed in the past, I urge everyone involved to step out of the illogic of escalation that has only ended in dead bodies, shattered lives and utter despair," said Türk, who took office in October as the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. Israel's ambassador in Geneva accused the rights office of condemning a "legitimate response" by her country instead of condemning "heinous terrorist attacks" against Jewish worshippers and Israeli civilians.

The region is facing one of the deadliest periods of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in years. An Israeli military raid last week killed 10

Palestinians most of them militants but also a 61-year-old woman. A Palestinian gunman in a shooting attack a day later outside an east Jerusalem synagogue killed seven people, including a 14-year-old.

Israel's firebrand national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, responded by taking steps to demolish the home of the gunman and other Palestinian homes in east Jerusalem built without permits, and called for granting more gun licenses to Israelis.

On Thursday, Israeli aircraft struck a rocket production workshop in the Gaza Strip, after Palestinian militants fired a rocket toward Israel. Over the weekend, a shooting in east Jerusalem by a 13-year-old Palestinian wounded two Israelis.

"I fear that recent mea-

sures being taken by the government of Israel are only fueling further violations and abuses of human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law," Türk said.

Such laws prohibit "collective punishment," including punitive forced evictions and demolition of homes, he said, warning that expanded licensing of firearms to civilians plus a rise in hateful rhetoric "can only lead to further violence and bloodshed."

Israel has long accused United Nations institutions of anti-Israel bias, and the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council a 47-member-state body, which like the rights office is based in Geneva has passed more country-specific resolutions involving Israel than any other single country. □



A young Bedouin girl looks to of a car window at the West Bank hamlet of Khan al-Ahmar, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023.

Associated Press



## Sunrise Walk-a-thon for World Cancer Day on February 4<sup>th</sup>

**(Oranjestad)—February 4<sup>th</sup> is World Cancer Day. This initiative of celebrating World Cancer is led by the International Cancer Control Union (ICCU). The goal is to bring awareness to this disease on a world wide scale, improve education on the topic, provide access to care and treatment, and work together to prevent millions of deaths caused by cancer.**

World Cancer Day was established in the year 2000. During the past couple years, this has created a positive movement around the world in order to fight against one of the biggest obstacle in medical history.

Every year, different activi-

ties are organized around the world, where communities, organizations and people are brought together to show their support and help raise awareness.

This year's theme for World Cancer Day is 'Close the Care Gap', and this campaign focuses on not just the celebration of one day, but it is a 3-year-long campaign that will focus on providing more opportunities to bring global awareness and the biggest impact around the world.

During the first year of this campaign back in 2022, the focus was on the understanding and recognition of inequality when it came to health care and access

to treatment around the world.

This year, the focus will be on union and taking action; the goal to unite people with the same mentality, same goals and to celebrate progress around the world in a different way.

For the last year of this campaign in 2024, the focus will be to bring attention on a higher level, with the goal to reach world leaders in order to push for long term change.

In conjunction with this special day, Aruban foundations such as KWF, the Mary Joan Foundation, Fundacion contra Cancer di Prostaat (Foundation

against Prostate Cancer), and Stichting BOB Aruba have joined forces to raise awareness, inform and motivate the Aruban community about the importance of early detection and prevention.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, there will

be the Sunrise Walk-a-thon. This walk-a-thon will start at 6:30 AM, starting from the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins. This walk-a-thon is completely free and all participants are asked to wear lilac-colored clothing, as this color represents World Cancer Day. □



## Security camera installations for carnaval parades

**(Oranjestad)—During a press conference yesterday morning, Minister of Justice, Rocco Tjon, along with Minister of Energy, Glenbert Croes, and Mr. Albertico "Tico" Koolman, manager of Elmar N.V., announced an important project to ensure better security during carnaval parades this year.**

Minister Tjon expressed that this was the first time that the Ministry of Justice is implementing a project of this nature, and that is also the first time they will do this in collaboration with Aruba's national energy company, Elmar N.V., so that the installations of cameras would be successful.

He also ensured that this project would not be possible with help from one ministry, so he thanked Minister Croes for his collaboration and contribution to the project.

Minister Tjon explained that this is a pilot project executed in different phases. The first phase has already been completed and work for the second phase is already on its way.

The first phase was executed together with the telecommunication company Setar N.V., where orders



for phase 2 and 3 were approved last Tuesday. Phase 2 will include the installation of security cameras around the hotel area hot zones. Security camera installations in San Nicolas have already been approved as well.

In the signed orders, it states that there will be 24 cameras installed in the streets of

San Nicolas that connect with the main road. Additionally, 28 cameras will be installed in the hot zones.

After evaluations, this project will move on to its fourth phase, which includes the public roads in Aruba.

Mr. Koolman of Elmar N.V. ensured that they are happy to be a part of this project as he shares how they

started implementing LED lights a few years back, and that they are now busy with implementing sensors for the cameras without changing the already existing infrastructure. This will provide better security for both the Aruban community and tourists, during traffic or public events.

"We are sure, we are done

with the second phase where lights and cameras will be placed in order for this to contribute to the security of Aruba," he said.

Minister Glenbert expressed that during the carnaval period, they want the community to enjoy the parades safely, without things going off the rails. If this may still occur though, the cameras will provide the police force to work more efficiently and faster: "Obviously, I'm here to highlight that as a community, we appreciate the Minister of Justice's vision, and we thank Elmar and other utility companies for their cooperation. The government is willing to go the extra mile to provide support to our community."

Minister Tjon also mentioned that this project is a temporary one, which will only be used for the carnaval routes to elevate security during the festivities: "the law gives us space to use this during certain period and at certain locations. For now, the cameras will stay and so will those in San Nicolas. In the next phase we hope to work with Setar to gather necessary information to provide cameras for the entire down town area," he ensured. □



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It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General

Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

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Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to [www.doit.aw](http://www.doit.aw) □



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## Aruba Customs intercept two illegal shipments

ORANJESTAD- During two recently held inspections, customs agents detected illegal shipments. The first interception was on January 18, 2023, when they intercepted hidden undeclared eggs in apple boxes. To import white eggs, merchants require a special import permit from the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce, and Industry (DEACI).

The second interception took place on February 1, 2023. Here the customs agents intercepted a sizeable number of medications hidden in a fruit container. They include

diclofenac, antibiotics, doxycycline, sildenafil, ampicillin, fricilicant, diclofenac forte, amoxicillin, gripe fin, mambó, and many more. This shipment was not declared and had no import permit from the Inspectorate of Health Aruba (IVA).

In both cases, they confiscated the merchandise and transferred them to the detectives (DRI) for investigation. Customs Aruba has to enforce both fiscal and non-fiscal duties. In these cases, they stopped illegal substances from entering the free market and protected the community's health. □



## Representatives of 9 United Nations Agencies visited Aruba



ORANJESTAD – On February 2, 2023, a delegation of the United Nations arrived in Aruba for a working visit.

It is the first time that such a large delegation, consisting of various organizations of the United Nations, visited Aruba. They were introduced to Aruba and

advised on how Aruba can benefit from their input, but also probed how to complement other existing programs ongoing in Aruba, among others, the Landspakket.

The United Nations has ample experience concerning policies in small islands as

they are already assisting over 50 islands worldwide. The Government of Aruba is excited about the visit of the experts of the principal agencies for Sustainable Development in Aruba.

On February 2, 2023, the delegation met with the ministers, department heads, and government policymakers. They also met with civil society and also had separate programs.

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government of Aruba, welcomes Mr. Denis Zulu, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations for Aruba, Curacao, St. Maarten, Trinidad, Suriname, and all the representatives of the different United Nations Organizations.

She thanked them for their work in benefit of Aruba. "In a year of union and positivism for a stronger and more resilient Aruba, all expert support for the sustainable development of Aruba is essential", the Prime Minister stated. □



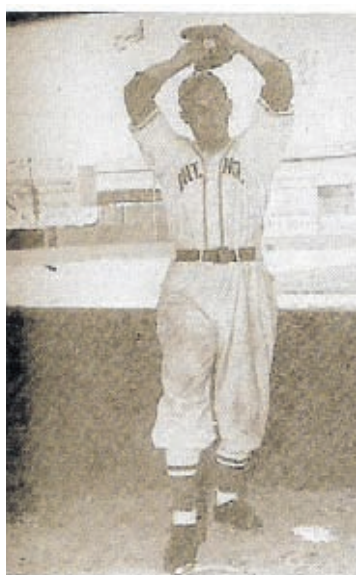


## Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD —** Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.



Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.



In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.



Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a double-header of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played



in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan im-

migrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers". Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Asso-

ciation and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □





## Aymar Torres, a happy musician “because I do what I love”

**ORANJESTAD – He is an Aruban musician living in the Netherlands, and when he gets on stage, he shows the Latin blood inside him, delighting the audience with catchy songs from different countries like Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean.**

In an interview with our reporter, Aymar says that he chose Latin rhythms because in the Netherlands there are not many artists performing the music from the old days, like Bolero or Trio Los Panchos. For this reason he decided to do this, since he sings in different languages like Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian. “This way people get more of the feeling that they are in the past and in their country as well,” he says.

In one word, he describes himself as “happy, because I do what I love. I let people live their lives and I don’t live with envy.”

He has been living in the Netherlands for 16 years already, and he dedicates his time to his six-month old baby, his partner who will soon become his wife, his music lessons three times a week, and his shows. Manuel is their first child. He says that together with his partner they are learning a lot from him. Torres himself is “attending father school”, and every day he makes sure to dedicate a lot of time to his child and playing music for him, since the first years are very important for a child’s development.

Torres mentions that since he was very young he decided to sing. He was a fan of Shakira and liked watching television, there was a show on a Venezuelan TV channel called “Club de los Tigritos”, which was very famous among children and teenagers in the 90s for the series of Salserin. “I grew up with all those artists and I wanted to become a singer like them. Then I learned singing when I was 16, and took it more seriously and



continued improving myself.”

Regarding the difference between performing in the Netherlands or Aruba, Torres explains that there is no difference, since “I am always myself as an artist. It doesn’t matter what country you go, you stay yourself and with the show you created, if you change something it’s going to feel weird. What I do change is my repertoire [when I’m in Aruba], because I know that many in Aruba do know the songs. Like when I play Juan Luis Guerra, there are other artists who also play Juan Luis Guerra, so I try playing a different song than what you already hear in Aruba.”

But the audience in Aruba is different, more difficult

joy, but in the Netherlands I can play more music that is played here,” he says.

Aruba has a lot of talent in the cultural, creative and artistic industry, but sometimes do not receive enough support from our own community. Aymar commented: “People need to take musicians and artists in general seriously. Some of them are not doing this job as a hobby but they live from it. Also the government can help see the musicians and artists more like a real worker, a public servant, because they are also important for our tourism. It would be good if we mix the artists with tourism so that the

tourists have more to enjoy.”

Aymar also points out that some people question the work of a musician. “There are still people with the belief that music is a hobby, but if you give people a chance to see it more like a job, more people in Aruba will improve in music, there will be better musicians that can perform abroad and living in Aruba. This is true for all artists, like painters, artisans, fashion designers, among others.”

Aymar also says that he is a fan of many artists, local and international, and here he announced that he wants to collaborate with beloved Aruban singer, Edjean Semeleer. He is planning and is busy with something to sing with him. “But since I had my son, I took a pause from writing and composing songs. This year I will start again with my own songs.”

Finalizing, he leaves as a message for people to support the youth in music and art of any category. “Push those who do want to go into music, help them and stop seeing music as just a hobby,” he says.

For more information, you can find Aymar on social media as “Aymar Music.” □

**Images are courtesy of Aymar himself.**





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Flower
  - 1 "Beat it!" girl, often
  - 6 Stylishly uninhibited
  - 11 Eucalyptus eater
  - 12 "Hello" singer

- DOWN**
- 1 Axel performer
  - 2 Solar halo
  - 3 Boo — ("To Kill a Mockingbird" recluse)
  - 4 Out of the wind
  - 5 Making decrees
  - 6 Toast spread
  - 7 Writer Tarbell

P	A	C	E	R	S	A	W	U	P
A	L	A	M	O	O	P	E	R	A
T	I	M	I	D	T	O	N	G	S
E	L	S	A	S	T	E	T		
P	I	T	Y	M	A	T	T		
A	D	O	C	A	R	L	O	A	D
P	E	T	A	L	M	E	T	R	O
A	S	H	C	A	N	S	H	E	N
E	T	N	A	F	E	A	T		
D	O	F	F	P	L	O	W		
A	V	O	I	D	A	R	A	B	S
N	E	R	V	E	I	G	L	O	O
G	R	E	E	N	R	E	L	A	X

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Swiss city
- 9 Moves smoothly
- 10 Brewing need
- 16 Starts
- 20 Like some tigers
- 21 Cal. spans
- 24 Hit letters
- 25 Bungle
- 26 Galahad's mother
- 27 Pavlova's field
- 28 Individually
- 29 Signed a lease
- 30 Treat, as a turkey
- 34 Seoul setting
- 36 For each
- 37 Retired jet

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1					12				
3					14				
5				15			7		
8				19	20	21			
22				23					
			24						
	25	25					27	28	29
30							31		
32				33	34				
35			36	37		38			
39						40			
41						42			

2-4

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three U's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q T Z B P O O I T W D L ' H R B

Q B Z V J T Q ... V D U Q B Z V J T Q. D L X

X J L ' H W D P P U B Q E V Z P B O.

— "D V Z K P D L B!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HAVE BEEN, AND ALWAYS SHALL BE, YOUR FRIEND. LIVE LONG AND PROSPER. — "STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN"

## Nostalgia sells; nostalgia with a twist can be a smash

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN  
AP Business Writer

Nostalgia sells and marketers know it, having used the brands of yesteryear fully aware that consumers will open their wallets to scratch that sentimental itch.

Those oldies but goodies keep popping up today, but increasingly with a twist. Companies continue to re-release snacks, entertainment and technology that millions of people grew up with, but tweaking them to create hybrids that possess the same heartfelt recognition, with a modern flavor. Companies have recognized that they can win over consumers nostalgic for the past and, at the same time, win new generations of consumers with a new spin.

"Younger consumers, like those in Gen Z or younger Millennials, had no direct



This image provided by McDonald's shows McDonald's Happy Meal that features the Cactus Plant Flea Market toys.

Associated Press

exposure to many of the fads and trends the first time around so they have a different relationship to them, filtered through more current perspectives," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData. "That necessitates a modern spin in order for products to resonate.

The younger consumer is often more concerned with curiosity and experi-

ence-seeking rather than with simple nostalgia."

The fintech company Klarna said 'vintage tech' sales have rocketed in recent years, some unchanged and some with significant updates. Sales for wired headphones increased by more than 300% in February 2022 compared with the previous year. Flip phones sales were up by more than 80% in August, it said. □

## U.S. tells owners to park old Hondas until air bags are fixed

DETROIT (AP) — Honda and the U.S. government are urging owners of about 8,200 older vehicles not to

drive them until dangerous air bag inflators are replaced.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Friday issued a "Do Not Drive" advisory for the 2001 through 2003 vehicles with Takata inflators that have a high possibility of exploding and hurling shrapnel in a crash.

The safety agency says the risk to drivers and passengers is dire because the so-called "Alpha" inflators have a 50% chance of exploding in a crash. If the inflators blow apart, they can shoot shrapnel toward a driver's face that could kill them or cause serious injuries.

The agency says the Honda and Acura vehicles were recalled previously but records show that repairs have not been made in the affected vehicles. Honda already has replaced 99% of the dangerous inflators. □



The logo of Honda Motor Co., is seen in Yokohama, near Tokyo on Dec. 15, 2021.

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24/7



## Bring back dodo? Ambitious plan draws investors, critics

By CHRISTINA LARSON

AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The dodo bird isn't coming back anytime soon. Nor is the woolly mammoth. But a company working on technologies to bring back extinct species has attracted more investors, while other scientists are skeptical such feats are possible or a good idea.

Colossal Biosciences first announced its ambitious plan to revive the woolly mammoth two years ago, and on Tuesday said it wanted to bring back the dodo bird, too.

"The dodo is a symbol of man-made extinction," said Ben Lamm, a serial entrepreneur and co-founder and CEO of Colossal. The company has formed a division to focus on bird-related genetic technologies.

The last dodo, a flightless bird about the size of a turkey, was killed in 1681 on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius.

The Dallas company, which launched in 2021, also announced Tuesday it had raised an additional \$150 million in funding. To date, it has raised \$225 million from wide-ranging investors that include United States Innovative Technology Fund, Breyer Capital and In-Q-Tel, the CIA's venture capital firm which invests in technology.

The prospect of bringing the dodo back isn't expected to directly make money, said Lamm. But the genetic tools and equipment that the company develops to try to do it may have other uses, including for human health care, he said.

For example, Colossal is now testing tools to tweak several parts of the genome simultaneously. It's also working on technologies for what is sometimes called an "artificial womb," he said.

The dodo's closest living relative is the Nicobar pigeon, said Beth Shapiro, a molecular biologist on Colossal's scientific advisory board, who has been studying the dodo for two



A rare fragment of a Dodo femur bone is displayed for photographs next to an image of a member of the extinct bird species at Christie's auction house's premises in London, March 27, 2013.

Associated Press

decades. Shapiro is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports The Associated Press' Health and Science Department.

Her team plans to study DNA differences between the Nicobar pigeon and the dodo to understand "what are the genes that really make a dodo a dodo," she said.

The team may then attempt to edit Nicobar pigeon cells to make them resemble dodo cells. It may be possible to put the tweaked cells into developing eggs of other birds, such as pigeons or chick-

ens, to create offspring that may in turn naturally produce dodo eggs, said Shapiro. The concept is still in an early theoretical stage for dodos.

Because animals are a product of both their genetics and their environment — which has changed dramatically since the 1600s — Shapiro said that "it's not possible to recreate a 100% identical copy of something that's gone."

Other scientists wonder if it's even advisable to try, and question whether "de-extinction" diverts attention and money away from

efforts to save species still on Earth. □



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# Support growing in NHL for longer 3-on-3 OT, fewer shootouts

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

(AP) — Troy Terry made his name in hockey with his shootout heroics for the U.S. in the 2017 world junior championship against Russia, much like T.J. Oshie did at the Olympics a few years earlier.

Still, the Anaheim Ducks All-Star wouldn't mind seeing fewer of them decide NHL games.

A movement is growing to play more than just five minutes of 3-on-3 overtime during the regular season in the hope of cutting down on the number of shootouts. Implementing 3-on-3 already has significantly reduced how often games are decided by shootout. Two-time NHL MVP and four-time scoring champion Connor McDavid spoke out in favor of longer overtime and it's clear he's not alone.

"The 3-on-3 overtime as a whole is great for this sport," Terry said. "It's fun for us. It feels more like hockey than going to the shootout."

The NHL implemented the shootout in 2005-06 coming out of a lockout that had wiped out an entire season, getting rid of ties that had been part of the league for decades. There is no consideration of going away from continuous



Minnesota Wild goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury, right, stops a shot by Buffalo Sabres right wing Jack Quinn in the shootout of an NHL hockey game Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

5-on-5 overtime in the playoffs until a game-winning goal is scored. The shootout was intended to jazz up regular-season games but by 2015 the NHL had what it considered a problem: 13% of its regular-season games, 160 in all, went to a shootout after five minutes of 4-on-4 play did not produce a deciding goal.

After some experimentation in the American Hockey League, the league approved 3-on-3 OT and that number plummeted to 8% last season.

It's down to 6.5% so far this season 51 of 803 games at the break, with the 3-on-3

All-Star tournament Saturday night another chance to show how effective it is but that's still too many for a lot of folks around the sport. "Any time you have an opportunity to decide the outcome of the game in a team atmosphere, I think it's more indicative of the fabric of the game," Pittsburgh Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "The shootout, I know it's exciting and there's an entertainment value there, but for me it's deciding the outcome of a baseball game with a home run derby."

The NHL is far from alone in tinkering with how to end

games in the regular season.

Major League Baseball began starting each half of extra innings with a runner on second in 2020, while the NFL has cut overtime from 15 minutes to 10 and altered how games end by giving each team a chance to score a touchdown. McDavid, who told Sportsnet in Canada that "no one wants to see the game end in a shootout," acknowledged the potential wear and tear of more 3-on-3 play. If he and other players are willing to take that on, there's a good chance the league serious-

ly considers extending OT.

"I think you'll see goals scored in the last 5 minutes if you play that extra 5," Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Seth Jones said. "(The shootout is) exciting for the fans. I understand why we do it. You work for 65 minutes and play a good game and you don't get rewarded sometimes based on the shootout."

St. Louis Blues winger Vladimir Tarasenko said the shootout sometimes feels like a lottery. There is a certain randomness to it; Washington's Alex Ovechkin, now the NHL's No. 2 scorer, cashes in on fewer than a third of his shootout attempts.

"It's harder than people think: goalies preparing for shooters, shooters preparing for goalies," said Tarasenko.

"I think it should be either you play until you score, or you play five (minutes) and a shootout."

Recency bias certainly clouds the conversation for some. Jason Robertson is against longer OT after he and the Dallas Stars lost three consecutive games going into the break, while coach Bruce Cassidy is fine with shootouts because his Vegas Golden Knights have an All-Star goaltender who happens to be good at them. □

## As James nears record, Tuesday's Lakers game moved to TNT



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (6) shoots over Indiana Pacers forward Aaron Nesmith (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The NBA has further adjusted the schedule of nationally televised games with LeBron James closing in on Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the league's scoring record. James is on pace to break the record Tuesday at home against the Oklahoma City Thunder. That game will now be shown on TNT, a change that forced a reworking of that night's entire schedule on the network. TNT was supposed to show Atlanta at New Orleans, followed by Minnesota at Denver. Instead, it'll show Phoenix at

Brooklyn first, followed by the Thunder-Lakers game. It's a move that follows the NBA making similar adjustments earlier this week to show James and the Lakers nationally on Saturday, as he presumably moves closer to Abdul-Jabbar. That game was moved up two hours to a 6 p.m. Eastern start. The Lakers-Pelicans game was moved to ESPN2, preceding a national broadcast between Dallas and Golden State at 8:30 p.m. on ABC. James entered Thursday needing 89 points to pass Abdul-Jabbar, who has

been the league's leading scorer since 1984.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said last month in Paris that the league would ensure James' record-breaking game is shown nationally, as well as making it globally available. If James doesn't have the record after Tuesday's game, his next game is already scheduled for national TV. The Lakers' home game Feb. 9 against Milwaukee the team that Abdul-Jabbar started his career with, before he joined the Lakers will be shown on TNT. □



# From Reid to Super Bowls, Eagles 4 stalwarts done it all

By **DAN GELSTON**

AP Sports Writer

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Jason Kelce felt the pull of retirement after the Eagles slogged through a miserable 2020 season and a second Super Bowl any time soon seemed like a joke. The Christmas album crooner, honorary Mummer and All-Pro center how many players have all those titles in their NFL.com bio? considered walking away at the end of last season. His future was one of the more pressing off-season questions on tap, so Philadelphia Eagles coach Nick Sirianni shipped the big guy two cases of beer to coax him to stay. So Kelce stayed.

"I've learned now I don't know when that last game is going to come," the 35-year-old Kelce said.

Hey, at least Kelce knows for sure when the last game this season is going to come.

Kelce has tried not to consider that the Super Bowl against Kansas City could be his final game as an Eagle. But he's not the only veteran Eagle and Super Bowl champion with a murky future. Kelce, Fletcher Cox and Brandon Graham are the lone holdovers from former coach Andy Reid's last season with the Eagles in 2012. There's a chance none of the three will be back for the 2023 season.

"I know them personally and they are tough guys, tough-minded," Reid said. "They're good leaders, fun to be around, and they're good football players. Each one has their own characteristic, but in general I'd tell you that about all of them, great team guys."

Lane Johnson completes the four veteran anchors and was a rookie in former coach Chip Kelly's first season in 2013.

The tenured stars the Core Four have won a Super Bowl under former coach Doug Pederson and won just four games in 2020. They've been hurt and set records. They've also raised the standard on what it means to be an Eagle. The



Philadelphia Eagles general manager Howie Roseman, center, stands with defensive end Brandon Graham (55) offensive tackle Lane Johnson (65), defensive tackle Fletcher Cox, and center Jason Kelce (62) after the NFC Championship NFL football game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

best way to do that is go out and win the big one in style.

"Since the day I got here, that's all they talk about," defensive tackle Javon Hargrave said. "Tell me how they feel when they went to the Super Bowl and all the memories they had. It's pretty cool to have people who have done it before."

Hargrave's nod to the veterans was interrupted when Graham pulled on his gaudy Super Bowl jacket with tags dangling from the sleeve at the neighboring locker. All they need is a new ring to complete the ensemble.

If they beat the Chiefs, some might go out in Philly on top.

This is no ordinary game for Kelce. On the Kansas City side, there's Reid, the coach who drafted him. Also over there is his brother, tight end Travis Kelce, marking the first time siblings will face off in the Super Bowl. One more thing, Kelce's wife Kylie is pregnant and the couple is bringing their ob-gyn to Ari-

zona just in case.

Kelce has been as durable as they come, with the Super Bowl putting him at 149 consecutive games.

"He's out there at practice every day limping around and giving his all to the team," tight end Dallas Goedert said.

Let's take a look at some of the foursome's finer moments:

Jason Kelce. Age 35. Center. Sixth-round pick, 2011. Five-time first-team All-Pro. The burly, bushy-haired Bird has been a stalwart of the offensive line since he was drafted and as an Iron Man after he missed most of the 2012 season with a partially torn MCL and torn ACL. He's in the last season of his contract.

He's a fan favorite and has done it all outside the football field, such as singing the national anthem at a 76ers game, partying with the Phanatic and pounding a beer to a roaring ovation at a Phillies postseason game.

But the moment that endeared him for life to the Philly faithful came at the

2018 Super Bowl parade when he dressed as one of Philadelphia's famed Mummer's and the ultimate underdog delivered a fiery, profane speech that whipped the crowd into a frenzy.

"No one likes us! No one likes us! We don't care," Kelce exclaimed. "We're from Philly! (Expletive) Philly. No one likes us! We don't care!"

Brandon Graham. Age 34. Defensive end. First-round pick. 2010. 2020 Pro Bowl. The most famous moment in Eagles history is the trick play that saw QB Nick Foles catch a touchdown to lead them past the New England Patriots for the franchise's first Super Bowl victory. Right behind it? Graham's strip-sack of Tom Brady in the same game with 2:21 left in the fourth quarter. Derek Barnett recovered and the Eagles hung on to win 41-33.

He missed most of last season with a torn Achilles but came back to post a career-high 11 sacks. Graham said he's not retiring and was excited about testing

free-agency for the first time in his career.

"I know I'm not the guy I was early on," he said. "I do feel like I'm still pass-rushing the same. I'm able to be dominant in the run game. I'm enjoying being the leader for the guys."

Lane Johnson. Age 32. Right tackle. First-round pick. 2013. Two-time first-team All-Pro.

Johnson, signed through 2025, bypassed surgery late in the season and has played through the post-season with a torn adductor in his groin. He did not allow a sack all season. But Johnson has received kudos for his openness in dealing with his mental health. Johnson took a leave during the 2021 season as he battled anxiety and depression and has since shared his story at depression treatment clinics in the area.

"I felt the shame, I felt like it was a crutch," Johnson said last year.

Fletcher Cox. Age 32. Defensive tackle. First-round pick 2012. First-team All-Pro 2018. □



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